



# Maryland and Delaware

## Media Summary

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### 2005 Small Grain Yields are Among the Best on Record

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released its final production estimates for the 2005 small grain crop on Monday. Despite some delays with harvest in July, farmers in Maryland are claiming excellent yields for their wheat and barley crops.

**Maryland:** Maryland wheat fields yielded an estimated 66 bushels per acre of grain this season, second only to the record set in 1997 of 68 bushels per acre. Of the 155,000 acres planted in wheat, 140,000 acres were harvested for grain, with the remaining 15,000 acres used for cover crop, forage, or other purposes. Total wheat production is estimated at 9.24 million bushels, up 8% from the 8.56 million bushels produced last year. Yield for barley is estimated at a record-setting 86 bushels per acre, 4 bushels per acre above the 82 bushels per acre harvested in 2000 and 2002. Of the 46,000 acres planted, 41,000 were harvested for grain, with the remainder used for forage or other uses. Total production is estimated at 3.53 million bushels, up 24% from last year's 2.85 million bushel production.

**Delaware:** Delaware wheat fields yielded an average 70 bushels per acre this season, just 3 bushels per acre short of the record yield set in 1997. Of the 52,000 acres planted, 51,000 acres were harvested for grain, resulting in a total production of 3.57 million bushels. This is 31% above last year's production of 2.73 million bushels. Yield for barley is estimated at 81 bushels per acre. This falls well short of the record set in 1997 of 89 bushels per acre, but compares favorably with last year's yield of 80 bushels per acre and the five-year average of 76 bushels per acre. Of the 29,000 acres planted, 27,000 acres were harvested for grain, resulting in a total production of 2.19 million bushels.

**United States:** All wheat production totaled 2.10 billion bushels in 2005, down 3 percent from the last forecast and 3 percent below 2004. Grain area is 50.0 million acres, down fractionally from last year. The U.S. yield is 42.0 bushels per acre, 1.0 bushel below the August forecast and down 1.2 bushels from a year ago. The level of production and change from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.49 billion bushels, down slightly; other spring wheat, 504 million bushels, down 11 percent; Durum wheat, 100 million bushels, up 11 percent.

Barley production is estimated at 212 million bushels, down 10 percent from the August 1 forecast and down 24 percent from last year. Average yield per acre, at 64.8 bushels, is down 3.4 bushels from the previous forecast and 4.8 bushels below 2004. The area harvested for grain is estimated at 3.28 million acres, down 6 percent from August and 19 percent below a year ago. Area harvested for grain is the lowest since 1890, while production is the lowest since 1936. Area planted, area harvested, and production are down from last year in the 13 largest-producing States. However, the U.S. yield is the second highest on record and the yield for Colorado and Maryland are at record highs.